

Report Title/Type: Eighteenth Quarterly Technical Progress Report for project entitled “Establishment of an Industry-Driven Consortium Focused on Improving the Production Performance of Domestic Stripper Wells”

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ABSTRACT

The Pennsylvania State University, under contract to the U.S. Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory will establish, promote, and manage a national industry-driven Stripper Well Consortium (SWC) that will be focused on improving the production performance of domestic petroleum and/or natural gas stripper wells. The consortium creates a partnership with the U.S. petroleum and natural gas industries and trade associations, state funding agencies, academia, and the National Energy Technology Laboratory.

This report serves as the eighteenth quarterly technical progress report for the SWC. Key activities for this reporting period include: 1) prepare presentation for the 16th Annual Oil Recovery Conference in Wichita, Kansas, 2) continued working on the SWC technical bulletin “Keeping the Home Wells Flowing: Helping Small Independent Oil and Gas Producers Develop New Technology Solutions”, 3) continue efforts on the Public Broadcast of Independent Oil: Rediscovering America’s Forgotten Wells, and 4) continue efforts to recruit SWC members.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Pennsylvania State University, under contract to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), is in the process of establishing an industry-driven stripper well consortium that will be focused on improving the production performance of domestic petroleum and/or natural gas stripper wells. Industry-driven consortia provide a cost-efficient vehicle for developing, transferring, and deploying new technologies into the private sector. The Stripper Well Consortium (SWC) will create a partnership with the U.S. petroleum and natural gas industries and trade associations, state funding agencies, academia, the National Energy Technology Laboratory, and the National Petroleum Technology Office.

Consortium technology development research will be conducted in the areas of reservoir remediation, wellbore clean up, and surface system optimization. Consortium members elected an Executive Council that will be charged with reviewing projects for consortium co-funding. Proposals must address improving the production performance of stripper wells and must provide significant cost share. The process of having industry develop, review, and select projects for funding will ensure that the consortium conducts research that is relevant and timely to industry. Co-funding of projects using external sources of funding will be sought to ensure that consortium funds are highly leveraged.

2.0 EXPERIMENTAL

A description of experimental methods is required by the DOE for all quarterly technical progress reports. In this program, Penn State is responsible for establishing and managing an industry-driven stripper well consortium. Technology development research awards are made on a competitive basis. Therefore, this section is not applicable to the Penn State contracted activities. Technical reports from the individual researchers will be required to contain an experimental discussion section and will be submitted to consortium members and DOE for their review.

3.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Key activities for this reporting period include: 1) prepare presentation for the 16th Annual Oil Recovery Conference in Wichita, Kansas, 2) continued working on the SWC technical bulletin “Keeping the Home Wells Flowing: Helping Small Independent Oil and Gas Producers Develop New Technology Solutions”, 3) continue efforts on the Public Broadcast of Independent Oil: Rediscovering America’s Forgotten Wells, and 4) continue efforts to recruit SWC members.

3.1 16th Annual Oil Recovery Conference

The SWC developed a presentation for a luncheon keynote at the upcoming 16th Oil Recovery Conference being held in Wichita, Kansas on April 6-7, 2005. The presentation will provide attendees with an overview of the Consortium and its associated activities. The conference is expected to draw approximately 125 attendees.

3.3 “Keeping the Home Wells Flowing”

In late 2004, the SWC began compiling material for a technical bulletin entitled: “Keeping the Home Wells Flowing: Helping Small Independent Oil and Gas Producers Develop New Technology Solutions”. The SWC subcontracted the development, writing, and publication of this technical bulletin to Hart Energy Services. The bulletin will provide an overview of the U.S. energy supply challenge, the role of stripper wells in meeting the challenge, how the Consortium works, and a technology showcase of twelve SWC projects.

3.4 “Independent Oil”

In late 2004, the Consortium started to work with Penn State’s Public Broadcasting develop a documentary on the domestic stripper well industry. The project was broken down into the following two segments: 1) a nominal 26-minute overview of the U.S. stripper well industry for airing on public broadcast stations across the U.S., and 2) a nominal 15-minute segment to showcase approximately six SWC projects.

3.4 Recruiting SWC Members

SWC membership recruitment efforts continue through this reporting period. Efforts will be made to increase the membership base during the 16th Annual Oil Recovery Conference and with the upcoming planned mailing of the SWC publication “Keeping the Home Wells Flowing”.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

The major effort for this reporting period, and in the upcoming reporting period, is to complete and disseminate the technical bulletin and the public broadcast informational pieces. A final report will be prepared beginning next quarter for summarizing the first three years of the Consortium activities.

5.0 REFERENCES

A listing of referenced materials is required by the DOE for each quarterly technical progress report. This technical progress report for the SWC did not utilize any reference material.